



Mayland Technical Institute in Spruce Pine moved to its new main campus and facilities in January of this year. The new campus, located about two miles from Spruce Pine on Highway 19E, comprises a 38 acre tract with a 34,000 square foot building. Construction costs for the new campus were slightly over \$1.5 million, composed of Appalachian Regional Commission funds, State funds, and local funds from Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, whom the Institute is chartered to serve.

The Institute can boast of a 500% growth rate in curriculum students since its opening in 1971, from 80 students then to over 500 now. Curriculum programs have grown from a mere 4 in

1972 to a total of 16 today while the fulltime faculty have grown from an initial 5 to a current 30.

Until this year, Mayland Tech has been located in temporary facilities in downtown Spruce Pine with satellite facilities in Newland and Banner Elk. The growth of the institution over the past six years has exceeded original projections and the size of its new facilities is now deemed inadequate for housing all of its students and programs. Therefore, some of the original temporary facilities downtown in Spruce Pine are continuing to be utilized.

CENTER IN YANCEY
Additionally, because of an increase in community demand for expanded Continuing Education and Extension Classes, the Institute this

year opened a Yancey County Learning Center in Burnsville, located 15 miles from the new main campus, to go along with its already existing Avery County Learning Center located in Newland, 22 miles from the main campus. Over 3,500 persons and a number of businesses and industries in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties participate each year in a variety of extension and adult education programs.

This year Mayland Tech is maintaining its new campus facilities plus other facilities in each of the three counties it serves. Total annual fiscal operating needs are approximately \$1.5 million.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

At present the Institute offers seven curriculum programs in the Vocational area: Auto Mechanics, Diesel Mechanics, Child Care Worker, Cosmetology, Electrical-Electronics Installation, Light Construction, and Practical Nurse Education. In the Technical area, six programs are offered: Accounting, Business Administration, Office Technology, Secretarial Science (Executive, Legal, Medical), and Early Childhood Specialist. Criminal Justice was added this year to accommodate the community's increased demand for additional law enforcement training.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Also, a formal general education program was approved by the State Board of Education this year. This new program offers a variety of courses in the liberal arts area leading to the Associate in Arts Degree. Institute personnel have been working closely with area four-year colleges and universities in developing possible transfer credit options for those students in the program who might wish to pursue the Baccalaureate Degree upon graduation from Mayland Tech.

Mayland Technical Institute is committed to expanding its role in serving community educational needs. With the occupancy of

a permanent campus and an increase in faculty and staff, the Institute this year has been able to increase efforts toward the provision of a wider range of community and student services and activities. Additional sources of funding for special community projects are continually sought and applied for when feasible, by a new Office of Research and Development. A Director of Student Activities was added this year to explore with students ideas for increased student activities both on and off campus.

A result of the aforementioned commitment is the establishment of more formal lines of communication and coordination between the Institute and other local, state and federal agencies as a means of eliminating much of the duplication of services which presently exists among such agencies. Student activities have increased and the Student Government Association has taken an active and viable role in the decision-making process. New student clubs and organizations are currently being developed along with a student newspaper. An Alumni Association is being organized, and ways to involve alumni more in the Institute are under exploration. Also, a Board of Visitors made up of area citizens is being created so that the Institute can be better informed of community needs and obtain input on current programs and services.

Mayland Technical Institute continues to strive to meet the growing needs of its constituents in a time of limited financial resources. Though current financial resources are not keeping pace with current community needs, the Institute is still able to maintain quality services at an optimum level through the extra efforts of its faculty and staff.

The Institute has an Open House planned for mid-May, but until that time, everyone is welcomed to drop by for a visit.



Senior Citizens Celebrate Birthdays

On March 24, 1977, a birthday party was held at the Nutrition Site at the Community Center in Burnsville. Honored guests were Plinnie Hensley, Galther Edwards, Viola Harrison, Wash Fox, Ruby Robinson, Ethel Gilley, Zella Buchanan, and Claude Williams. The beautiful cake was baked by Ethel Higgins and was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to the Senior Citizens who brought food to supplement the food delivered each day. Approximately sixty people attended and

enjoyed a delicious meal. The Nutrition Program is for anyone over 60 years of age who would like to come out for a day of relaxing and getting acquainted with old friends and also learning a new craft. If you are interested in coming to the site and have no transportation, W.A.M.Y. Community Action provides Vans that make regular runs into the different areas of Yancey County each day. Please call 682-2610 or 682-7563.

Photo by Joe Moody

USITA Fights Major Threat

The nation's Independent telephone companies will return to Congress this month to testify at Senate hearings on an issue which the telephone industry considers a major threat to the low cost basic phone service now being provided to consumers.

"Hearings on the future of telecommunications, including the impact of Federal Communications Commission policies fostering so-called competition, have been set by the Senate communications subcommittee for late March," Paul Wooten, District Commercial Manager, said.

Wilson B. Garnett, President of the U.S. Independent Telephone Association, will testify March 28 on behalf of Independent phone companies and customers. Other witnesses will include Paul H. Henson, Chairman of United Telecommunications, Inc., one of the largest non-Bell System holding companies, and R.G. Nehring, President of Arizona Telephone Company, a small company serving less than 1000 phones.

USITA is a national trade group which represents the interests of the 1,600 non-Bell System companies.

Independent (non-Bell) telephone companies serve over 28 million telephones in more than half of the nation's "telephone territory," and Westco Telephone Company serves approximately 26,349 phones.

The Senate testimony follows three days of House hearings last September into the issue of so-called competition in communications.

The industry states that recent decisions by the FCC will cause higher rates for

residential and small business users, and therefore are not in the public interest. The FCC has permitted customers to own their own telephone equipment, and has allowed non-telephone companies to provide intercity communications services to business firms.

"Last year the whole telephone industry supported the principles behind the Consumer Communications Reform Act, which nearly 200 Representatives and Senators co-sponsored, to encourage Congress to review national communications policy," said Wooten. "The same legislation has been reintroduced in this Congress and already has over 50 sponsors—more than at the comparable time in the last session."

"Objective outside studies done for USITA indicate the FCC policies will cause rate increases up to 60 percent (excluding inflation) by 1985 for basic residential, rural and small business service," he said. "That is why we are particularly pleased to see the Senate joining the House in reviewing this issue."

"The telephone companies could successfully meet competition, but to do so we would have to change our pricing structure so that each type of customer would be charged according to the costs of providing his type of service. This inevitably would mean higher rates for residential consumers, whose rates purposely have been kept low to meet the objectives of the Communications Act of 1934," Wooten said. That legislation called for low cost, widespread telephone service for all Americans.

Talent Show Friday

A Talent Show will be staged Friday night at 7:30 at the South Toe Elementary

School. Proceeds will go to the school. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50c for children.



Receives Plaque

Billy Gene Anglin on the right here receives his Million Dollar plaque from District Manager Clyde Randall. Bill works out of the Marion office of Western Southern Life Insurance Company and serves Burnsville and the surrounding area. Bill and his wife Pam and their son Kent live on Boone Ridge Road and attend the First Baptist Church.

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